

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph at page 21, lines 1-13, with the following amended paragraph:

The curvature may be determined by any method, but the cosine of the angle made between the normal vectors that the adjoining candidate points form is defined as the curvature. For example, the curvature of a fourth candidate point 820, as shown in Fig. 8 is calculated by the cosine of an angle 830. The curvatures of all candidate points are thus calculated, and the coordinates of the candidate point having the maximum curvature are recorded at the corresponding positions of the core retrieval result table. In the example shown in Fig. 10, the curvature of -0.3 is the maximum, so that the coordinates and the curvature of the fourth candidate point are recorded at the position corresponding to Index 1 of Fig. 11.

Please replace paragraph at page 24, lines 12-16 with the following amended paragraph:

If the angle reaches 180 degrees (S2630:YES), the angle having the minimum angle-evaluated value out of the evaluated values assigned to the individual angles (S2635) is calculated. The angle having the minimum value determines the direction of the ridge at the standard point.

Please replace the current title with the following amended title:

~~LIVING BODY AUTHENTICATION SYSTEM~~ BY FINGERPRINT